

My food is God's will

Tim Miller, Gateway Fellowship, Jan 18, 2015

"Life moves pretty fast. You don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." --Ferris Beuller

John 4:34 Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work.

I think this one sentence from Jesus explains the essence of fasting better than anything I've read. I think this is Jesus' adaptation of "*Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*" God's word is God's will spoken. God's word is not for entertainment or knowledge, but for doing. God's word is there to be "*a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.*" It's for doing. It's for knowing God's will, so that you can do God's will.

Our greatest need isn't bodily life. Therefore, our greatest need isn't food. Our greatest need is God's will. Therefore our greatest need is spiritual life. The thing that nourished Jesus was doing the Father's will. The thing that will nourish you and I is doing the Father's will. In the context of John 4, the Father's will was this: reconnecting broken, messed up, sinning lost sons and daughters to the Father so that they can access the living water of his love and spiritually thrive as his worshipers!

Interesting how Jesus doesn't go on a private silent retreat in a monastery and journal a lot of introspective stuff during his fast. It doesn't even look like it was an intentional fast. It looks like he just Took a really exhausting long walk and then when became super weary and thirsty, he sat down next to a well and wait her for someone with a bucket and a rope. And then when someone finally comes, the Father starts to show Jesus things and he realizes that Jesus came here seeking a drink, but the Father is seeking this woman. Jesus, ever on point, alert, and awake, does what we would call "prophetic evangelism," though I think he would just call it "loving people."

Part of the reason I don't think the fast was intentional is the way the disciples immediately seek food as soon as they arrive at the city. He clearly hadn't previously told them he was fasting. They kept trying to interrupt him with concern for him. Like mom's with little hypoglycemic six year olds, "You better eat something before your blood sugar crashes young man!"

Intentionality, Improvisation and are two things Jesus had down to an art form. It's just Jesus' way not to pack a lunch, but to wing it and see what happens next. His whole game plan would drive the super organized and meticulously mapped and planned out among us flat nuts! "Where are we going today Jesus?" **"We're headed to Galilee."** "Well, how long will the journey be? What path will we take? It looks like we're headed through Samaria! Are you sure that's a good idea? And don't you think we should pack supplies? Where's my itinerary? What is the agenda of the day Rabbi?" **"We shall see. You'll know when I know. All I know right now is 'back to galilee again.'"** He truly is like the wind of John 3, blowing wherever it pleases. Most of Jesus' ministry was the **ministry of interruptions**. Some of us need to turn in our **expectations** and receive back simple **expectancy** instead.

Jesus sat down and when he saw the woman, **he actually saw her**, and that changes everything.

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Windows into Reality. You know, we get these windows into spiritual reality from time to time. I sometimes refer to them as mountaintop experiences. You can see the topography of the land - the lay of the land - from the mountaintop. You get a kind of map view of everything from there. You get a perspective on the big picture from the mountaintop. Don't ever stop seeking God to experience him! Your experiences of God are windows into spiritual reality. But we live most of the time being faithful to do his will through the valley to our next target - our assignment of the season. I've basically adopted this way of thinking about my life as a journey. Seasons. Assignments.

The Lord's supper is like that. We have this physical emblem of what Jesus did in dying for us, bleeding love, his marriage proposal and vows all in one. The covenant is here as a meal. We take it and we eat it. We eat his flesh and drink his blood. He becomes our food. Our nourishment is him. But it isn't about the symbolic act. The symbol is a window into a different way of life. Normal life is lived by believing in him, depending in him, looking to him, seeking him, finding him, abiding in him.

Just as we eat daily to live, our spirit must do the Father's will daily for us to spiritually thrive.

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